The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

WHOLE NO. 1996 | WILLIAM GREEN, *President* | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JULY 12, 1949 | GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* | VOL. 39, NO. 28

AS WE SEE IT

The following is excerpted from the July 5th radio program, "As We See It," the first of a new series presented by the American Federation of Labor over the nationwide network of the American Broadcasting Company each Tuesday evening from 10:30—10:45 EDT. The views of the participants on the Taft labor bill were expressed in interviews with James G. Crowley, radio commentator.

By WAYNE MORSE

U. S. Senator From Oregon

The Taft bill has the effect of putting the government on the employer's side of the collective bargaining table. Now, I don't want the government on the employer's side of the table. I don't want the government on the labor side of the table. As I said during the debate on the floor of the Senate, I want my government at the head of the collective bargaining table, sitting in a position of judgment on the merits of the cases presented both by employers and workers in an individual dispute.

What the average citizen I am afraid is missing is that, under the Taft proposal, the government steps in with a big stick in the form of an injunction and the injunction itself is an original decision against labor in a specific case and that means that the employer can sit back and not participate in good faith collective bargaining. There have been many instances under the Taft-Hartley law in which the employers have not engaged in good faith collective bargaining because they know in the last analysis they can get the government on their side of the case through the injunctive process obtained by the government itself.

I think one of the saddest things about this entire matter is that the Senator from Ohio, Mr. Taft, led the Republican party in this debate back beyond the year 1932, back to the period of our history in which government by injunction prevailed in this country. I think the Senator from Ohio went back on the Norris-LaGuardia anti-injunction law, which is one of the great pieces of legislation passed by the Republican party.

There are many features of the bill, but let's take the one giving to the states the right to pass a bill more stringent than the Taft-Harley law and have the state bill apply to interstate commerce. Now, what's the effect; and here I would have the employers of America recognize where the Senator from Ohio is leading them in this proposal.

The effect of that is going to be to discriminate against industry in those states that have good, fair, just labor laws. The effect of that is going to be to have the employers in what we call the "bad" states from a standpoint of unfair labor legislation have an advantage over employers in "good" labor law states.

I could not vote for that kind of law because I believe in the uniform application of justice across this country equally upon all people that come within a given legal principle.

By PAUL DOUGLAS

U. S. Senator From Illinois

I agree thoroughly with the analysis of the Taft bill which Senator Morse gave. It is a bad bill and an antilabor bill and it was put over in the Senate by the combination with which we are all too familiar. The combination of the reactionary Republicans of the North and the Midwest with the Dixiecrats of the South.

It is most interesting to note that of the 46 who voted against the Lucas amendment (for plant seizure only), and that was the key vote, that 45 of those had previously voted together on the Wherry resolution to make it impossible to break a filibuster.

In other words, the Senate of the United States is now controlled by an unholy alliance of Republicans and Dixiecrats and the issue will now turn away from the Senate to the people and will finally be decided at the polls in November, 1950, and November, 1952.

By HUBERT HUMPHREY

U. S. Senator From Minnesota

We had two measures that were offered to us. One was the injunction that is a court order to stop national strikes and the second one was plant seizure, just commonly called seizure. Now what happened in these two instances.

Well, we brought out our arguments against the injunction. We proved that under the Taft-Hartley Act where the injunction had been used, it had never been effective. It never settled a strike, it never did anything to protect the national welfare. So the people and the members of the Senate listened to these arguments. They listened to the testimony of famous and well known and impartial labor-management authorities, and the result was they voted down the injunction overwhelmingly. Just prior to that, the Senate had voted down the seizure provision saying, as the Senator from Ohio said, that it was unfair and that it was ineffective, that it wouldn't work, and that he was opposed to it.

So we found ourselves in this strange situation, having voted down the injunction number one, voted down the seizure number two, having had the concurrence of the Senators in both instances that neither one of them was fair or effective. Then the Senator from Ohio put both of these two things that had been defeated into one package or one amendment known as the injunction and seizure amendment and lo and behold, the two things that had been defeated standing on their own merits, standing up individually, were adopted and passed as the Taft amendment on national emergencies.

By WILLIAM GREEN

President, American Fed. of Labor

We said when the Taft-Hartley Act was passed two years ago that we would never stop fighting until that infamous law was wiped off the statute books. We never will stop fighting until that goal is reached. Of course, the Senate vote was deeply disappointing to labor. Approval of the injunction provision alone makes the legislation completely unacceptable to labor.

When a court can compel Americans to work against their will for a private employer operating for private profit, those Americans have lost their most precious possession—their freedom. To us, injunctions mean slave labor. We had many experiences with injunctions in the past, before the Norris-LaGuardia Act, and they reached the climax of tyranny when one judge even sought to prevent a union from feeding the wives and children of strikers. Labor can never acquiesce to a return to those days.

We have made definite progress. The Taft-Hartley Act has become discredited. The people of this country repudiated it overwhelmingly in the 1948 elections, in which the Taft-Hartley Act was a paramount issue. But the voting in the Senate last week and the vote in the House last month have made it clear to us that so far we hhave not made enough progress. And that is why we are determined to keep on fighting with renewed vigor and with fixed determination not to relax our efforts until the goal is won.

Our chief hope is for the election of a new Congress in November, 1950, which will be overwhelmingly liberal.

At every step during this session of the 81st Congress we have seen the die-hard reactionaries in both the Republican and Democratic parties team up together to defeat progressive legislation and to retain the Tory policies of the 80th Congress. The mere fact that the Democratic party has a majority on paper in the 81st Congress has not helped us, because the reactionary element in the Democratic party has refused to follow the leadership of President Truman and instead has entered into a coalition with the reactionary elements of the Republican party, led by Senator Taft. For this reason, in the 1950 campaign the American Federation of Labor is determined to maintain its nonpartisan policy so that it can be free to oppose reactionaries in both parties and to support liberal candidates from both parties.

In 1948 we created a new organization known as Labor's League for Political Education, to serve as the political arm of the American Federation of Labor. The league was handicapped in the 1948 campaign by a limited staff, lack of time for development of a nationwide organization, and insufficient funds. Despite these handicaps, the league registered remarkable success in getting out the vote and in bringing about the election of candidates who endorsed labor's liberal policies. However, in 1950 the league will be in a much better position, both as to organization and finances, to do a really effective job. Our first objective will be to see to it that members of Congress who faithfully supported liberal policies in this Congress are reelected. Secondly, we will do our utmost to defeat members of Congress who have consistently voted against labor.

It is our job to convince the American people, and American workers especially, that they should register and vote without fail next year. We are determined to do that job. We are preparing to inaugurate a nationwide educational campaign emphasizing the vital importance of voting in Congressional elections. And we are organizing committees in every Congressional district in the nation to carry on a "get-out-the-vote" drive. These methods have met with success in the past. We are confident that they will help us win in 1950.

ARBITRATOR AWARDS IBEW WAGE BOOSTS FROM UTILITY

Reading, Pa.—An arbitration panel awarded more than 1,000 workers of the Metrooplitan Edison Co. of Reading and the Edison Light and Power Co., of York, Pa., a subsidiary, wage increases ranging from 5 to 10 cents an hour, it was announced here.

The 3-member panel with J. Griffith Boardman, of Philadelphia, as chairman, issued the decision after deliberating for 3 months over demands on the light and power utility firms by Locals 563, 603, 803, 1261 and 1482 of the AFL's international Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Green Says Joblessness Demands Review Of Unemployment Compensation Laws

Washington.—AFL President William Green declared that declining employment is a "storm warning" which demands the "appraisal of the effectiveness of the various state unemployment compensation programs."

In a letter to Oscar R. Ewing, federal security administrator, Mr. Green charged that state laws have been weakened by the enactment of measures restricting eligibility and imposing technical qualification standards not related to the nature of the unemployment.

Mr. Green singled out for special criticism the employer experience rating provisions under which nearly $5,000,000,000 have been rebated to employers over the past 10 years. He said:

"I wish particularly to call your attention to the loss in revenue to the unemployment trust fund which has resulted from the employer experience rating provisions of the state laws. Between 1939 and 1948 the net reduction in revenue to the unemployment trust fund totaled $4,709,000,000. This amount is equal to 82.6 percent of all benefits paid to unemployed workers from the beginning of the program to the end of 1948. During the year 1948 the net loss to the trust fund due to tax reduction and rebates to employers alone was $1,161,000,000. This is 46 percent more than the total amount paid in benefits to unemployed workers during that year. The loss during the first 6 months of 1949 brings the total to more than $5,000,000,000.

"As you know, these huge reductions which accrue to the benefit of employers are supposed to represent a reward for the stabilization of employment. During the period of the war and the years immediately following it was not possible to measure the effectiveness of the employment stabilization provisions of the state laws since employment continued at high levels as a result of factors over which employers had little or no control.

"It now seems appropriate in the light of the recent sharp increases in unemployment to call for a thorough evaluation of any employment stabilization programs that may have been developed within the states. In other words, what have the workers of America and what has the nation gotten by way of stabilized employment in return for the $5,000,000,000 which has in effect been paid to employers as a reward for stabilizing employment within the industries covered by the program?

"In order that all who are concerned with the successful operation of the program may be properly informed on this important point I suggest that you ask each state to submit within the next month:

"(1) A detailed description of such employment stabilization programs as it has developed under its unemployment compensation law, and

"(2) Such evidence as it may have indicating that the employer experience rating provisions of its law have contributed to the stabilization of employment in any way and, if so, in what way.

"This material together with such other material as you feel is appropriate to ask of the states along with the data which you regularly gather on the operation of the system should be very valuable in developing proposals for changes in the unemployment compensation program to be submitted to the Congress."

AFL Entertainment Unions Backing Vaudeville Revival

New York.—The new "union label" campaign of the AFL entertainment unions is making real headway in the metropolitan area and throughout the country.

By "union label" in this case is meant the 1949 slogan—PATRONIZE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT—as a means of alleviating the heavy unemployment in the entertainment industry and at the same time satisfying the theater and movie-going public.

The major success which is beginning to snowball over the country is the return of vaudeville. Here in New York City, the famed Palace Theater, which for more than a decade had deserted vaudeville, has gone back to continuous showings of live entertainment—and the Palace, mecca of every vaudevillian, is doing fine.

All over the 5 metropolitan boroughs, neighborhood theaters, financially hit by sagging public interest, have brought in live shows and live music and it's paying off, according to the trade papers and according to information gathered by Local 802, American Federation of Musicians.

Nationally, a new vaudeville circuit is being planned and is practically certain to start in the next months. Behind this drive and sparking it is the American Federation of Musicians leadership which is asking its locals to do a marketing job for live music.

One theater owner said happily, "There's nothing like live entertainment to bring in the business today. We've been sitting with half-empty theaters, even when the movie has been tops, because somehow people aren't going out to movies these days for lots of reasons. But the introduction of live entertainers, music and performers, has brought back old customers. The average movie audience sits on its hands just staring. An audience with vaudeville can applaud its head off, yell for encores, show its appreciation of a good show. Vaudeville is in the great American tradition and it's going to mean real box-office for theater people."

Local 802 of the Musicians Union is asking its members to urge upon friends and families to—patronize live entertainment. That's a "union label" fight which must be won if the hundreds of thousands of musicians, actors, radio performers and technicians are going to earn a decent wage.

Work Certificates Issued by 44 States Valid For Proof of Ages Under U. S. Law

Washington.—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin announced the redesignation of 44 states as states whose age, employment, or working certificates or permits are accepted as proof of age for young workers under the child-labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Included also are the District of Columbia, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. Under a recent regulation of the Secretary of Labor, these certificates are also acceptable as proof of age under the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act.

Sixteen years is the minimum age for general employment under the child-labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, and 18 for occupations that have been declared particularly hazardous by the Secretary of Labor.

By obtaining state certificates in the states and jurisdictions designated, employers protect themselves from unintentionally employing under-age children. Employers in the other four states—Idaho, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas—have similar protection through obtaining federal certificates of age issued in those states.

Inspection experience under the Fair Labor Standards Act has shown that less than 4 percent of the certificated minors were found employed in occupations illegal for the age shown on their certificates. In contrast, 30 percent of the minors found employed without certificates were working in violation of the act's child-labor provisions.

This federal acceptance of state certificates carries out the policy of the Secretary of Labor of encouraging close cooperation between federal and state governments in the administration of labor laws.

When the Fair Labor Standards Act was passed, many of these 44 states already had work-permit systems and, to avoid duplication and inconvenience to employers and young workers, the U. S. Department of Labor arranged to accept them rather than to set up a system of federal certificates.

LUXURY HOUSING UNITS TO BE RENT DE-CONTROLLED

Washington.—Housing Expediter Tighe E. Woods issued a regulation to enable the decontrol of luxury housing accommodations as provided under the Housing and Rent Act of 1949.

Since the act does not state what constitutes a luxury housing accommodation, the regulation provides a definition. It defines "luxury housing accommodations" as meaning "unfurnished housing accommodations, located in a multi-unit structure, rented for use by not more than a single family and having a maximum rent in excess of $290 per month or such lower rental figure as the area rent director may determine to be representative of rentals for luxury housing accommodations in his defense-rental area or portion thereof."

Inasmuch as the law provides for decontrol of luxury housing accommodations only where such action will result in the creation of additional rental units by conversion, the regulation does not provide blanket decontrol.

ANTI-UNION LEGISLATION VETOED BY GOV. FOLSOM

Montgomery, Ala.—Efforts of probusiness state legislators to ram through a "little Taft-Hartley law" which would apply to only one county in Alabama brought a veto of the measure by Gov. James Folsom.

The union-control bill would have affected only Wilcox County. As purely local legislation it sailed through the legislature without debate. The author, Senator Bruce Henderson, said the purpose of the bill was to induce industry to move into the county.

Truman Urges New Program To Up Output, Buying Power

Truman's Recommendations For U.S. Economic Program

1. Repeal the tax on the transportation of goods, liberalize the provisions for carry-over losses by corporations, and raise estate and gift taxes. No major increase in taxes should be undertaken at this time.
2. Extend the maximum time limit now fixed by law on the maturity of loans to business made by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.
3. Provide for a broad study of investment and development needs and market opportunities in an expanding economy.
4. Adopt an improved program of farm income supports.
5. Increase the minimum wage to at least 75 cents an hour and broaden its coverage.
6. Strengthen the unemployment compensation system by increasing the amount and duration of benefits and extending coverage.
7. Extend to July 25, 1950, the availability of readjustment allowances for veterans not protected by state unemployment compensation law.
8. Raise benefits and extend coverage under the old-age and survivors insurance system and improve the public assistance program.
9. Enact legislation to permit federal agencies, and assist states and localities, to intensify their advance planning and to acquire sites for useful projects.
10. Enact legislation to provide technical assistance to underdeveloped areas abroad and to encourage investment in such areas.
11. Restore the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act.

Says Recent Downtrend Can, Must be Reversed Green Hails Plan

Washington. — President Truman called upon all segments of the American economy to work towards the development of a "more stable and enduring growth in production, employment, and purchasing power" as a means of reversing the "moderate downward trend" in the nation's economic activity.

In his mid-year economic report to the Congress, the President declared that the trends toward lower production and mounting unemployment "can and must be reversed by positive action, private and public."

The aid the reversal process, Mr. Truman proposed an 11-point legislative program designed to combat deflationary pressures on the economy and to stabilize at a high level the purchasing power of the nation's workers.

"Business cannot be prosperous unless the purchasing power of workers is maintained," the President declared.

Hailing Mr. Truman's stand, AFL President William Green declared that his message is "especially reassuring" to labor and contains "timely and constructive" recommendations which, if enacted by Congress, "would be the most effective step our government could take to head off any threat of a serious depression." The AFL leader said:

"To labor, the President's message is especially reassuring because he places the greatest emphasis where it belongs, on the necessity of expanding mass power in order to keep production and employment at high levels. Purchasing power in the hands of the American people is the key to the nation's health. It must not be allowed to go into a serious decline."

The President offered these concrete proposals for legislation in support of the counter-deflation program:

1. Repeal the 3 percent tax on freight transportation, liberalize provisions for carry-over of losses by corporations and raise estate and gift taxes. No major tax increase now.
2. Extend the statutory, maximum time limit on loans to business by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.
3. Authorize a broad study of investment and development needs and market oportunities in an expanding economy.
4. Adopt the Brannan program of farm income supports.
5. Increase the national minimum wage to 75 cents an hour and broaden its coverage.
6. Increase unemployment compensation payments up to $30 a week for 26 weeks on a nationwide basis and with Federal aid to states meeting the standards.
7. Extend to July 25, 1950, the availability of readjustment allowances for veterans not protected by state unemployment compensation laws.
8. Increase benefits and extend coverage under the old-age and survivors insurance system and improve the public assistance program.
9. Enact legislation to provide technical assistance to underdeveloped areas abroad and to encourage investment in such areas.
10. Restore the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act.
11. Enact legislation permitting Federal agencies, and assisting states and localities, to intensify their advance planning and to acquire sites for useful projects.

The President took sharp issue with Congressional economy advocates, contending that there could be no "greater economic folly" than to attempt a balanced federal budges "in a declining national economy." He said such a course would only aggravate the recession forces against which his new policy was directed.

The Chief Executive dismissed his earlier demand for $4,000,000,000 of additional tax revenues with the simple statement that "no major increase in taxes should be undertaken at this time." Instead, he proposed liberalization of allowances for past losses in computing corporate income taxes and increasing estate and gift taxes.

Through the 7,000-word text of the Presidential message ran the theme that balancing the federal budget and reducing the national debt, although important in themselves, were secondary to the paramount objectives of full employment and production and continuing essential national programs for education, housing and health.

The President questioned whether as a nation we would be truly prosperous if we permitted "gaping deficits" in these needed programs. If they were permitted to multiply, he said, they would drag down the whole economy so there could be no hope for a balanced budget.

It was not enough to prevent a depression or to hold our own, the President said. He held out the prospect of a national output "well above $300,000,000,000" in a few years "if the real needs and aspirations of our people are translated into the effective demand through constantly growing employment and purchasing power."

It was clear from the President's message that a national income of that order of magnitude was inevitable if the increasing productivity of a growing labor force was thoroughly utilized.

Support of AFL Union Wins State Bill Giving Laborers Civil Service Rights

By DAN SYMTH

Chicago Correspondent for AFL News Service

Chicago.—A bill to blanket city laborers under civil service without examination has been passed by the Illinois legislature, with backing of the County Municipal Employes and Foremen's Union, Local 1001, of the AFL Hodcarriers International.

As a result, the union's 3,500 will become eligible for a pension. They also will be spared the sudden unemployment which has afflicted experienced workers in other crafts when civil service examinations were called after many years without any.

The Civil Service Commission of Chicago has conducted no examination for laborers for 22 years. So, many of the union's members who have up to 21 years' experience in their jobs have been classified as "temporary appointees" with no civil service rating.

Lately, the civil service commission has been calling examinations right and left. Although civil service is a protection for the workers, the fact that examinations had been so long neglected made it tough for some of the long-time "temporaries."

In an examination for truck drivers, for instance, employes of a lifetime's experience were displaced by younger men who had veterans priority, or who could turn in a well-written examination paper. Oldtimers who had driven a truck competently for years were unable to pass the written tests, having had little or no formal education.

The experts who select the questions for civil service examinations sometimes have little appreciation of the practical value of experience. In a recent Chicago examination for junior engineer 91 experienced candidates took the test and only 31 passed, mostly men who had been employed as senior engineer.

When the civil service commission began its new program of regular examinations, Frank Esposito, president of Local 1001, and Tony Francisco, secretary, were afraid some of their members jobs would be jeopardized unless protected by special legislation.

A melting pot of all races, including a large number of foreign-born, Local 1001 has a large percentage of members who can't read or write the king's English too well, although they can tamp asphalt as well, if not better than most Cambridge scholars.

As chairman of the board of managers of the Italian Welfare Council, Esposito has several friends in the state legislature and has acquired a faith in political action. He started the action which led to passage of the bill for laborers' civil service.

The bill provides that all employes are automatically put under the merit system after three years' "temporary appointee" service. Their pension plan is the same as for other city workers. Pensions vary according to length of service and amounts paid into the pension fund, but could run as high as $90 a month for a worker with a lifetime of service.

Dubinsky Defends ILGWU's Relief Work; Refutes Pegler Charge on Fund Raising

New York.—David Dubinsky, president of the AFL's International Ladies Garment Workers Union, refuted charges made before a House subcommittee by the antilabor columnist, Westbrook Pegler, that the union resorted to coercion of its members in the raising of relief and charity funds.

In a statement issued here, the ILGWU leader asserted that "the most democratic process" has been followed by local ILGWU affiliates in the raising of such funds. The text of Mr. Dubinsky's statement follows:

"I consider the charge that our union and its membership have for many years past raised large funds for relief and charity purposes both here and abroad as a badge of honor.

"We have sent relief prior, during and after the last war to China, to Italy, to France, to Britain, to Poland, to Czechoslovakia, to Israel—and we have contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to the American Red Cross and to the various wartime and post-war philanthropies and civic undertakings in all parts of our own country.

"We reported to the last convention of our international union, in 1947, that approximately $10,000,000 was raised by our members throughout the country for various relief purposes here and abroad. This is a matter of public record, and as far as our union is concerned it has become part of our way of life, part of our tradition.

"The ILGWU, as an international union, does not and has not imposed any relief assessments on its members anywhere throughout the country. Our locals have gone about raising such funds over the years on a local level, using the most democratic process, namely, by majority votes at special meetings called for that purpose. Such majority decisions we deem to be part of union democracy.

"Mr. Pegler, who is clowning daily about his "Americanism" and is at the same time a self-admitted opponent of democracy, is concerned very little with the standard of living of the workers of our country, and even less with the suffering and martyrdom of peoples abroad.

"We in the labor movement, who have helped to raise the standard of living of the American worker, are diametrically opposed to this Peglerian philosophy. We have given liberally in past years to alleviate misery at home and to help the survival of victims of tryanny and dictatorship abroad. We intend to go on doing this to the utmost of our ability to help democracy survive everywhere."

AFL'S POTTERS UNION LISTS $3,000,000 ASSETS

East Liverpool, Ohio.—Complying with the Taft-Hartley Act, the 28,000-member National Brotherhood of Operative Potters published a financial statement showing net assets of $3,082,625.

The report listed a defense fund of $1,748,741, a general fund of $589,214, an insurance funds of $624,762, and an office building and newspaper and job printing plant valued at $119,808.

Assets included $217,511 in checking accounts, $1,007,675 in bonds and $1,447,937 in stocks.

AFL AUTO WORKERS WIN NEW YORK NLRB EELCTIONS

Milwaukee.—The AFL's United Automobile Workers of America reported chalking up two more National Labor Relations Board victories in the Empire State. Employes at the Harder Corporation in Cobleskill voted by a better than 6-to-1 margin to affiliate wit hthe UAW-AFL.

At the Auburn Spark Plug Co., in Auburn, N. Y., the UAW-AFL emerged the victor in an NLRB election by defeating the FE-CIO by a 3-to-1 margin.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1949 GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

AS WE SEE IT

The following is excerpted from the July 12th radio program, "As We See It," a new series presented by the American Federation of Labor over the nationwide network of the American Broadcasting Company each Tuesday evening from 10:30—10:45 EDT. The views of the participants on international labor affairs were expressed in interviews with James G. Crowley, radio commentator.

By GEORGE MEANY
Secretary-Treasurer, American Federation of Labor

The objective (of the recent meeting of free trade union leaders) was to establish a new worldwide federation of free unions, which would advance the cause of world peace, check Communist infiltration and destruction of free trade unionism and promote higher standards for workers on an international level.

At our conference in Geneva, 38 national labor organizations with a total membership of almost 50,000,000 workers were represented.

By democratic free trade unions, I mean unions free from domination by government and free from domination by any specific political ideology. In other words, voluntary associations of free working men and women who have banded together to promote their economic betterment and not because they were ordered to do so by any government or by any political party.

The conference decided unanimously to go ahead with the formation of a new world organization of free trade unions. A committee was named to make arrangements for the first convention of this new body, which will be held in Europe around the end of November of this year.

Preservation of world peace depends upon the preservation of a free Europe. I think everyone recognizes that now. Our whole foreign policy is based upon that premise, so is the European Recovery Program for which our country is spending so many billions of dollars, but when you examine the problem more closely you are bound to discover that the key to the survival of freedom and democracy in Europe is the free trade union movement.

The threat to peace in Europe comes from only one source—Soviet Russia. As of today Russia prefers to carry on its cold war strategy rather than risk open conflict. That strategy in the countries of eastern Europe has been first to win over the labor movement to Communist control and then to take over the entire country. That is just what Russia did in Czechoslovakia. The same strategy is now being tried in western Europe, especially in Italy and France. It has been actively supported and abetted by the so-called World Federation of Trade Unions. That organization has now been exposed as a Communist front and the free trade union organizations which once were affiliated with it have broken away.

Of course, the Communist labor front in Europe already has been weakened. By organizing the free trade union movements on a worldwide basis into an active, effective federation, we can really checkmate Russia's plans for using free trade unions as a stepping stone to revolution and ruin. I can think of no more effective way to safeguard world peace and democracy.

The American Federation of Labor has decided to join the new world organization and so has the CIO, along with trade union centers from Canada, South and Central America, Great Britain and other European nations. In addition, we had representatives from Asia, Australia and the Near East. We are all going to fight the spread of communism through infiltration of labor unions on every front and in every continent and we are determined to help lift economic standards everywhere so that peace and democracy will not be threatened by Communist exploitation of human misery and despair. We are going to bring new hope to the workers of the world, hope for peace, and hope for security and freedom.

By PAUL HOFFMAN
Administrator, Economic Cooperation Administration

There are more than 29,000,000 men and women in the trade union movement in the ERP countries. The support these men and women have given ECA has been of vital significance. They have, however, lacked the same strength as such an organization as a free trade union world federation will give them. Through the federation, labor's role in ERP will be much more effective.

Until recently the World Federation of Trade Unions had the international field almost to itself. That organization is controlled by the Communists. I think the support given ERP by the European trade unions in view of this circumstance is very remarkable.

Workers for the most part have been uninfluenced by the barrage of misrepresentation and downright malice directed at the recovery program by the anti-democratic forces, that is the Communists. Through the new free trade union world federation workers will get facts as to the Marshall Plan rather than propaganda from the Kremlin. As these facts become known to them, we can be sure of the enthusiastic support of the workers. Labor's interest in democracy is fundamental, only in freedom will the workers realize their full potentiality. I would have been most unhappily surprised if the trade union movement in the ERP countries had not supported the recovery program enthusiastically.

Bert Jewell and Clinton Golden (ECA labor advisors) are two of my right-hand men. We have labor advisors in Paris and in each of the ECA country missions. Two of the mission heads, John Gross in Norway and Michael Harris in Sweden, are labor men.

The American worker, I think, is aware of his stake in the economic stability of Europe. He realizes fully that a world half prosperous and half in economic ruin cannot long endure and that peace cannot be preserved for America if the forces that lead to war are on the rampage elsewhere.

I think there is no question but what our labor advisors and the labor people in ECA have been extremely effective in dispelling those doubts that might have persisted and prevailed if this had been only a business organization. They work with the labor union leaders in the various countries, they sit down in meetings with them and of course if any stories come up that need answering they answer those stories.

We talk about threatened collapse (of European economies) and we talk about it, I think, very carelessly.

My answer is that European nations which are facing new problems because of a shift from a seller's to a buyer's market will find an answer to their problems.

I have every reason to believe that in view of the progress made to date that European recovery can proceed provided we continue to give them our aid until such time as they are back on their feet and can carry their own affairs themselves.

ILGWU DONATES $5,000 FOR RELIEF OF ARABS

New York.—The International Ladies Garment Workers Union forwarded $5,000 to the American Friends Service Committee for the use of Arab relief, David Dubinsky, the union's president, announced.

In a letter to Clarence E. Picket, executive secretary of the Friends committee, accompanying the gift, Mr. Dubinsky stated that the donation was voted by the ILGWU following an appeal "received from a group of our members of descendants of Arabic-speaking peoples."

"In line with our tradition of aiding needy people everywhere," Dubinsky added, "it is our hope that this contribution will in some measure alleviate the plight of many Arab civilians who have become the innocent victims of a war deliberately provoked by the Mufti and other reactionary leaders in opposition to the just and peaceful aspirations of the Jewish people."

ONE-THIRD OF U. S. WOMEN HELD PAYING JOBS IN 1948

Washington.—One out of three women over 14 was a paid worker, either full or part time, in 1948, the Census Bureau reported. Of the men over 14, 87 percent did paid work during the year.

Among the principal groups taking part time work were housewives, students and semiretired persons. One-third of the nation's male students held jobs.

Altogether, at least 66,000,000 persons over 14 held jobs during the last year, the bureau found. Of these, 60,500,000 were engaged in one type of job, while the other 5,500,000 held two or more different types of work during the year.

MILITARY LEAVES GIVEN TO ILLINOIS GUARDSMEN

Chicago.—Maj. Gen. Joseph A. Teece, commanding general of the Illinois National Guard, reported that 950 Illinois firms now grant the 15-day leaves necessary for summer field training of guardsmen in addition to regular vacations.

Gen. Teece said that this total represents an increase of 300 percent over the number of companies which offered leaves for National Guard field training last year.

"This is convincing proof of the sincere desire of business and industry to cooperate in building national defense through a strong state organization," said Gen. Teece. "Our latest survey made by local commanders of 300 units in 90 communities throughout the state reveals that of the 950 firms granting the leaves, 505, or 54 percent, provide either full pay or the difference in pay."

NAMING OF CARSON TO FCC BACKED BY LABOR GROUP

Washington. — Labor spokesmen urged approval by the Senate of John J. Carson's nomination for a post on the Federal Trade Commission.

Blaming monopolists for the opposition to Carson's appointment, Nelson Cruikshankfi speaking for the American Federation of Labor, told the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee that "the type of opposition to Mr. Carson makes him eminently qualified for the post."

Eric Peterson, secretary-treasurer of the International Association of Machinists, endorsed him as "a staunch defender of the rights of small business and the opponent of illegal monopolists."

Letter Carriers Buy U. S. Savings Bonds

The National Association of Letter Carriers, its Mutual Benefit Association and National Sick Benefit Association, added to their portfolios of U. S. Savings Bonds at Washington, D. C., on June 10 by investing $155,000 in Series G Bonds. The National Association purchased $35,000 worth, the Mutual Benefit group $100,000 and the Sick Benefit Association $20,000.

The Bonds were presented by Mrs. Thelma Dawson, a Building Trades employee and an outstanding Savings Bonds volunteer worker, on one of the Opportunity Drive Covered Wagons. With a bevy of Washington girls in '49er costume forming a background, the National Association officers are pictured above, left to right, Philip Lepper, D. R. Sullivan, Mrs. Dawson, Jerome J. Keating, William C. Doherty, Fred O. Andrews and R. B. Kremers.

AFL Meat Cutters, Retail Clerks Agree On Jurisdictional Dispute Settlement

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent for AFL News Service

Chicago.—A jurisdictional dispute 43 years old was settled with signing of an agreement in Chicago between the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America and its sister AFL union, the Retail Clerks International Association.

According to Earl W. Jimerson, president, and Patrick E. Gorman, secretary-treasurer of the butchers' international, the misunderstanding first arose in 1906 when both unions claimed jurisdiction over employes of retail food stores.

The American Federation of Labor decided that meat cutters should be members of the Amalgamated and workers in the rest of a food store should belong to the clerks' union. Neither union accepted the decision, and raiding continued intermittently.

In recent years, the controversy was intensified with development of superstores with frozen food counters and prepackaged meats. William Green,, AFL president, made one effort after another over a period of 10 years to bring the two unions to an understanding.

The new agreement finally was signed by Vernon Housewright, international president, and James Suffridge, secretary-treasurer, representing the clerks' union, and by Jimerson and Gorman for the meat cutters.

It provides that the Meat Cutters Union shall have jurisdiction over selling, cutting, pre-packaging and display of meat in all stores, also the handling of frozen meats and the sale of all fish and poultry, either frozen or fresh.

The Clerks Union will have jurisdiction over all workers employed in the grocery side of the store, including cashiers and checkers.

In a telegram to both organizations, President Green praised the agreement as "an outstanding document which other unions having jurisdictional quarrels may well follow."

Woll Stresses AFL Role in Tax Matters; Connecticut Report Hailed as Example

New York.—AFL state federations and city central bodies can play a significant role in initiating and supporting progressive tax programs, Matthew Woll, vice president of the American Federation of Labor and chairman of its committee on taxation, declared here.

As an example of the part which AFL affiliates can take in tax matters, Mr. Woll cited the recent minority report of the Connecticut State Tax Survey Committee to Gov. Chester Bowles, issued at the insistence of Joseph M. Rourke, secretary-treasurer of the Connecticut State Federation of Labor.

In the report, Mr. Rourke declared in emphatic terms that the committee was not properly representative of labor, consumer groups, veterans' groups, and the general public, that the representatives of business interests proposed the adoption of sales taxes before information regarding other revenue sources had been submitted, and that the committee majority had made no effort to examine existing and prospective sources of revenue in relation to long-term needs of the state.

Mr. Woll stated that the minority report was particularly valuable in that it stressed the need for a positive, pro-public tax policy, following its analysis of the shortcomings of the recommendation made by the committee majority.

Mr. Rourke's minority report showed in concrete terms how continued dependence on consumption taxes in an industrial state such as Connecticut is inequitable and economically unsound," declared Mr. Woll.

"His report is to be commended and should be studied by state federation officers throughout the nation. This is particularly important during this period when there is such a determined effort to shift the tax burden from those more able to those less able to pay, through the adoption of sales, cigarette, payroll, and other nuisance taxes on consumption, in so many states and local communities."

MISSOURI LABOR UNIONS WIN REPEAL OF CONTROL LAW

Jefferson City, Mo.—Organized labor won its fight for repeal of Missouri's Union Control Act. Gov. Forrest Smith, with labor leaders as witnesses, signed a bill repealing the Madison Act almost 2 years after it was approved July 22, 1947.

His action climaxed one of the hottest fights of this year's legislative session, including an all-night Senate filibuster against the repealer.

The Madison law barred jurisdictional strikes, sympathy strikes, strikes against government and secondary boycotts. It also set up compulsory arbitration. It said no strike could be called unless a majority of the eligible union members voted for it.

JOBLESS IN N. J. CITY UP BY 50% OVER 1948 RATE

Elizabeth, N. J.—Nearly 8,000 persons are collecting unemployment compensation through the Elizabeth office of the State Employment Service, a 50 percent increase over this time last year, it was revealed here.

New applications for jobs made at the office last month totaled 2,399, a decrease under June 1948, when 2,665 applications were filed. Persons placed in jobs in the month numbered 408.

JURY INDICTS 4 FIRMS FOR ANTI-TRUST VIOLATION

Philadelphia.—Five individuals and 4 kitchen-equipment manufacturers were indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of violating the Sherman Antitrust Act.

Specifically, the defendants are accused of conspiring to eliminate competition and maintain high noncompetitive prices in the sale and installation of kitchen equipment in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.

The indictments were returned by a jury which for 18 months has been studying the high cost of living. Previous presentments resulted in fines averaging $1,000 each against 45 corporations, 65 individuals and 4 trade associations in the linen, wallpaper, plastics, dry-cleaning and leather business.

FARM WAGES DECLINING BUT EMPLOYMENT RISES

Washington.—Farm employment is running about 4 percent above normal but wage rates average slightly less, the Agriculture Department reported.

Field reports indicate a general easing in the farm labor supply situation, the department reported. This was said to permit farmers to be more selective in their hiring.

100,000 Dwellings Started in June; Total is '49 Peak

Washington.—Homebuilders scored a new record for 1949 by putting 100,000 new permanent nonfarm dwelling units under construction during June, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced.

This preliminary estimate places June housing starts 5,000 above the May total and 2,200 above June, 1948. Last year, a peak of 100,300 units was reached in May.

Preliminary estimates of housing activity for the first 6 months of 1949 show 450,800 new dwelling units put under construction, compared with 477,600 for the same period in 1948. Late reports of March, 1949, housing activity have raised the total for that month to 69,400, an addition of 7,400 units.

Included in the 1949 January-June total are 20,200 publicly financed units, almost entirely state and locally financed. For the same months in 1948, publicly financed housing totaled 6,000 units.

Comparing the first quarter of 1948 and 1949, the volume of rental-type units (2-or-more family structures) is 4 percent higher this year, but 1-family starts are 8 percent lower. On the basis of local permits issued, it appears that second-quarter data, when available, will show a much larger increase in rental housing.

Telegraphic reports of local building permits issued in principal cities of the country show increases in most sections of the country for new dwelling units authorized. Most of the rise was in the southern states, and is credited to the large volume of apartment house construction authorized.

Hershey Workers Postpone Strike

Hershey, Pa.—AFL union members employed at the big Hershey Chocolate Corporation's plants here voted to defer a strike originally called when the corporation refused to negotiate on the union's demand for a union shop.

The deferment action was approved by 600 members of Local 464 of the AFL's Bakery and Confectionery Workers Union at the request of Federal Mediator G. Harry Young.

The dispute arose when the company took a firm stand against the union's request for a union shop despite the fact that in an election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board, as required by the Taft-Hartley law, the Hershey workers expressed a preference for this type of union security clause. When employer representatives refused to discuss the issue, the union membership voted to strike.

The mediator's request to defer strike action was backed by union leaders and supported by Lewis G. Hines, AFL national legislative representative, to permit more time for mediation efforts.

Addressing the union members, Hines pledged that, should a strike eventually result, "you will have the backing of your international union and the entire AFL membership."

"A strike would build up resentment against the Hershey company and union people would refuse to buy its products," he declared.

SENATE UNIT BACKS BILL TO EXTEND GI '52-20' PLAN

Washington. — Heeding President Truman's request, a Senate labor subcommittee approved legislation to extend the veterans' unemployment insurance program for one year.

Mr. Truman asked for such an extension in his mid-year economic report to Congress.

The present program is scheduled to expire July 25. The extension bill still must be acted upon by the full committee, the Senate and the House.

AFL Supports New U. S. Housing Aid Bill; Hails Move For Federal Loans to Co-ops

Washington.—A bill to stimulate the construction of low-cost housing for rental or sale to meet the needs of the nation's middle-income families was introduced in the Senate by Senator John J. Sparkman of Alabama.

Hailing the measure, Harry C. Bates, chairman of the AFL's Housing Committee, declared that its provisions "for the first time will make it possible for union workers to obtain decent housing at lower prices."

The bill which supplements the broad federal low-cost housing program, would provide direct loans to cooperative housing projects, liberalize FHA and GI housing assistance, and more than double the existing federally-operated secondary mortgage market.

Mr. Bates singled out the aid to cooperative housing developments for special praise. He said:

"If this bill is passed, unions will be able to organize cooperative housing projects and obtain long-term loans directly from the federal government at an interest rate of 3 percent. The savings in interest payments and the cost reductions that will be made possible by cooperative methods will enable union families to obtain much better value for their housing dollar than they can possibly do in today's market."

Specifically, the bill provides:

"1. That cooperative construction, built for sale, be financed by 40-year 4-percent mortgages with veterans eligible for 100 percent of the sale price and nonveterans for 90 percent, the individual loan not to exceed $9,000. Such loans also could be sold in their entirety by the lender to the Federal National Mortgage Association.

"2. That cooperative construction of rental housing on a multiple-unit scale be financed by direct 60-year 3-percent federal loans from a $1,000,000,000 fund. Rentals on such housing would run from $50 to $60 a month.

In addition, the measure would expand the GI housing loan provisions to guarantee $7,500, or 60 percent, of the mortgage. It also would enable a veteran who is unable to get private financing under the GI loan provisions, to obtain a direct 4 percent loan from the Veterans Administration.

Other provisions of the Sparkman bill boost the maximum loans obtainable for the construction of individually financed homes, and increase the permanent FHA insurance program by $1,500,000,000, provide for special consideration for rural housing construction, and permit lending agencies to sell mortgages in greater amounts to the Federal National Mortgage Association, which agency operates the government's secondary mortgage market.

Sponsors of the bill said that the measure is designed to produce up to 2,000,000 new homes a year, more than double the best record of the construction industry. It is hoped that the bill will aid in the building of 15,000,000 new housing units by 1960, a figure set for a goal by housing experts on the basis of population growth and the need for replacement of deteriorated dwellings.

Edwards, N. Y. AFL Leader Named to Head FEPC Unit

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—The appointment of Edward W. (Bill) Edwards, vice president of the State Federation of Labor, as chairman of the New York State Commission Against Discrimination, has been received here with acclaim and drawn attention to the important work that this state agency is doing.

Bill Edwards is known far and wide in AFL circles. Formerly president of the State Allied Printing Council, he was appointed to the antidiscrimination commission in 1946. Upon the resignation of the commission's previous chairman, Governor Dewey appointed Bill Edwards to the $11,950-a-year position.

SCAD, as the commission is known by its initials, was set up by the state legislature with a mandate "to eliminate and prevent discrimination in employment because of race, creed, color or national origin, either by employers, labor organizations, employment agencies or other persons and to take any other actions against discrimination because of race, creed, color or national origin."

Instead of going off into an explosive, publicity-shouting campaign, SCAD adopted a twofold policy—first, use conference, conciliation and persuasion wherever possible before using drastic procedures; second, try to educate the community "in order to create a climate of public opinion which would be favorable to the administration of the law."

Although SCAD has been in existence for a few years, it has made its influence widely felt. Of special significance, in New York state where the creation of the commission was preceded by attacks and criticisms from all sides—either the law went too far or not far enough—there is currently heard little criticism about the commission's operations.

SCAD's annual report, just published, says:

"Even to the casual observer it is evident that significant progress in employment opportunities has been made in the state of New York since the enactment of the Law Against Discrimination."

By SCAD's establishment of local councils, cooperation has been enlisted among industrialists, labor leaders, personnel directors, clergy, school and college instructors, social agency representatives.

"The commission," says the report, "has attempted to administer the Law Against Discrimination in an atmosphere of cooperation. The alternative to this is to administer the law in an atmosphere of conflict."

Those who know Bill Edwards will realize that the policy of cooperation will continue as long as he is chairman.

California Federation Wins Victory; Legislature OK's Hospital Benefit Bill

San Francisco.—Nearly 3,000,000 workers in California will be eligible for hospitalization benefits for disabling illness or accident resulting from nonindustrial causes under terms of a bill passed bp the state legislature.

Enactment of the measure, which has the support of Gov. Earl Warren, represents a smashing victory for the California State Federation of Labor which fought for its adoption against a combined, powerful lobby of employer and insurance company interests.

Under terms of the bill, workers will receive an $8 daily benefit for a maximum of 12 days. Commencing January 1, 1950, the benefit will be payable imediately upon entry in a hospital with no waiting period required for those individuals covered by the California Unemployment Insurance Act.

It is estimated, on a preliminary basis, that the average annual benefits paid out to all workers under the bill will amount to approximately $10,000,000, according to the Weekly News Letter published by the California State Federation of Labor. The letter said:

"The federation has thus been successful in achieving one of its major purposes of the 1949 legislative session. It has obtained to a very significant extent the disbursement to the workers of the surplus in the State Disability Insurance Fund. At the present time the fund is accumulating a surplus at the rate of about $16,000,000 annually. The new hospital benefit plan will provide for the expenditure of about three-quarters of this annual accumulating surplus.

"The new hospital benefit bill represents a tremendous victory over the insurance companies which have been trying desperately to restrict any liberalization of the Disability Insurance Law in order to protect their profits under the voluntary plans."

FARM UNIONS AKS DP's BE SENT TO BETTER AREAS

Memphis.—The executive board of the AFL's National Farm Labor Union voted to ask that European displaced persons in this country be removed from some areas and reassigned to those "in which high standards obtain."

The board adopted a resolution making this request of state, federal and local authorities. It did not specify the areas, but H. L. Mitchell, union president, said it referred to: Areas "such as the sugar cane section of Louisiana, the cotton plantation area of the mid-South and citrus and vegetable areas of California where unemployment is growing."

MORE UNIONS FILING NON-COMMUNIST OATHS

Washington.—The number of labor unions filing non-Communist affidavits in order to qualify Labor Relations Board is still rising.

American Federation of Labor affiliates with affidavits on file total 98, an increase of one in a month. The AFL has 106 affiliates. Some of them, like the railroad unions, have little if any business with the NLRB.

The number of independent unions qualified is 54, an increase of 2.

Individual affidavits filed by national and local union officers total 86,100, a decrease of 10,715 from the previous month but 10 percent more than the number on file a year ago.